

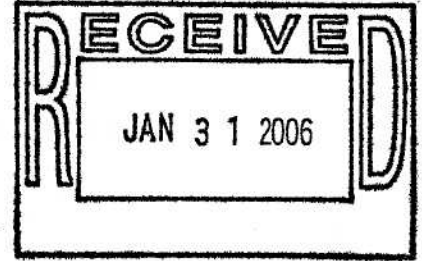
B & R FARMS

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



January 29, 2006

Johan Burger
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Commercial Manure Broker and Hauler Program
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Mr. Burger:

I am a farmer in Schuylkill County and am writing this letter to express my opposition to proposed regulations for commercial manure haulers and brokers. These regulations were published on December 17th in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. I respectfully request that these regulations be withdrawn.

I recently attended the PA Corn Growers meeting in Carlisle, which highlighted the importance of the use of manure to replace commercial fertilizer. As fuel and fertilizer costs increase, this relationship will become more important. More and more farmers will be transporting manure to obtain its maximum benefits. Manure, now more than ever, is a valuable commodity. Because of its increasing value, farmers will be managing it much more closely and treating it as a resource.

These proposed regulations will discourage haulers and brokers from participating. Those few that do will pass on substantially higher costs to the farmers with no additional services or value being provided. Just when farmers are trying their best to balance manure application, crop needs, and environmental safety, Pennsylvania will be making it more difficult to accomplish this goal.

The most objectionable part of the regulation is not only the cost to certify people, but the fact that all employees must be certified.

Once again, I would ask that PDA withdraw these regulations and reconsider.

Sincerely,

Barron L. Hetherington

Note: Copies sent to
PDA Secretary Dennis Wolff
Senator James Rhodes 29th Dist
Representative Dave Argall 124th Dist